

IN THE CLAIMS

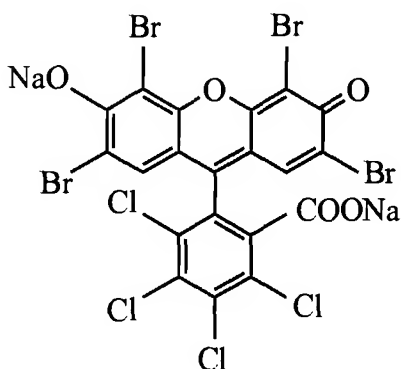
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

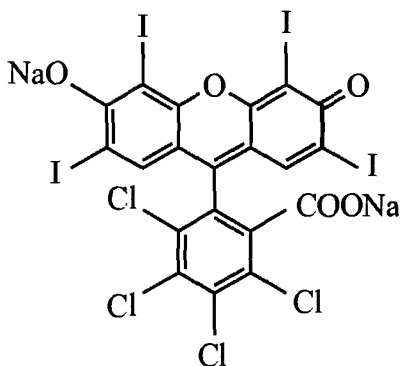
Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for assaying albumin in urine by using a protein assay indicator,

wherein a compound having a chemical structure expressed by one of the following Chemical Formulas (1)-1 and (1)-2 is used as the protein assay indicator:



(1)-1



(1)-2

wherein the albumin in urine is assayed in a solution having a pH equal to or below the pKa of the protein indicator,

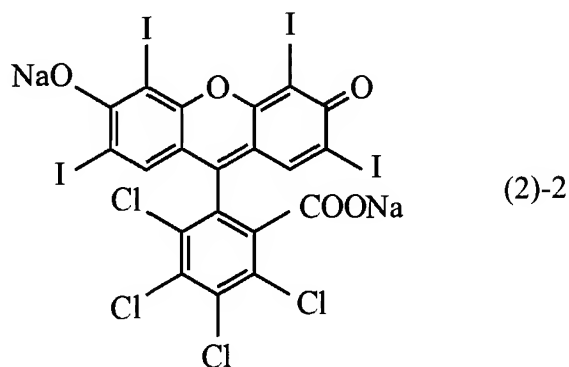
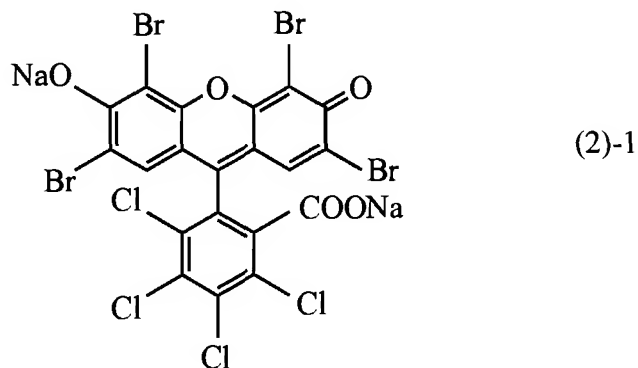
wherein the protein assay indicator in the solution is from colorless to light orange in color when no albumin is present in the solution, and

wherein the protein assay indicator in the solution is from red to purple in color when albumin is present in the solution.

2.-6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein albumin concentration is measured for an albumin-containing sample whose albumin concentration is between 10 and 20 mg/dL.

8. (currently amended) A protein assay indicator for assaying albumin in urine, said indicator having a chemical structure expressed by one of the following Chemical Formulas (2)-1 and (2)-2:



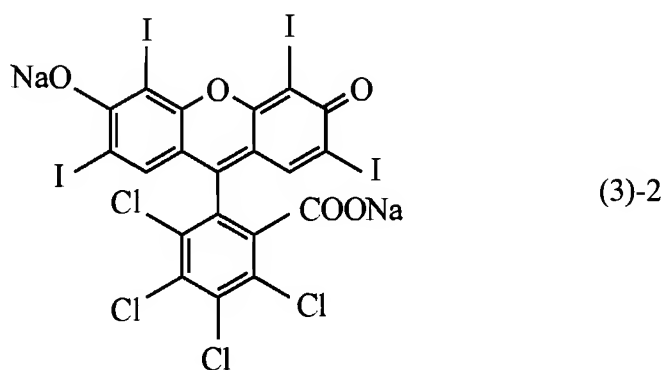
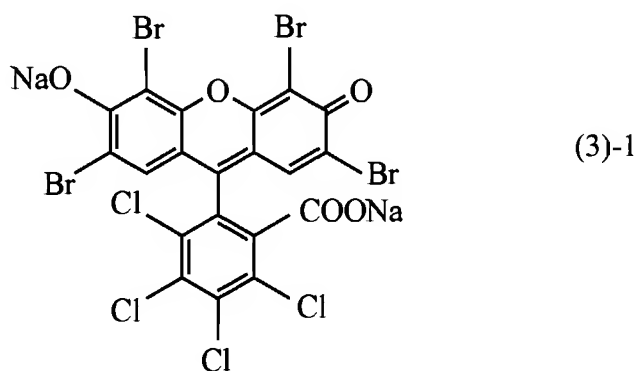
wherein the protein assay indicator in a solution is from colorless to light orange in color when no albumin is present in the solution,

wherein the protein assay indicator in the solution is from red to purple in color when albumin is present in the solution, and

wherein the solution has a pH equal to or below the pKa of the protein indicator.

9.-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A test piece used for quantifying or semi-quantifying albumin in urine, wherein a compound having a chemical structure expressed by one of the following Chemical Formulas (3)-1 and (3)-2 is used as a protein assay indicator:



wherein the protein assay indicator in a solution is from colorless to light orange in color when no albumin is present in the solution,

wherein the protein assay indicator in the solution is from red to purple in color when albumin is present in the solution, and

wherein the solution has a pH equal to or below the pKa of the protein indicator.

14.-17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The test piece according to claim 13, further containing a sensitizer for increasing the coloration sensitivity with respect to the protein.

19. (previously presented) The test piece according to claim 18, containing one of polyethylene glycol and polypropylene glycol as the sensitizer.